

# NEWSBRIEF



**Date:** January 10, 2014

**To:** Council & Senior Staff

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2. Halfway Happy Hour flyer
3. Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins – *In Touch With District 2* – Issue One
4. Joint Water Commission Minutes – Meeting of December 4, 2013
5. LMC *Cities Bulletin* dated January 6, 2014
6. NWCTV *Spotlight* – January/February 2014
7. Recreation Department Update – 1/10/14
8. Star Tribune article dated 1/6/14:
  - Cities at odds with Minnesota's gun law
9. SunPost articles dated 1/9/14:
  - *Becker Park recreation building vandalized Dec. 24*
  - *'Crystal Sparkles' recognizes two outstanding holiday displays*

# CRYSTAL EDA Quarterly Development Status Report

**December 31, 2013**

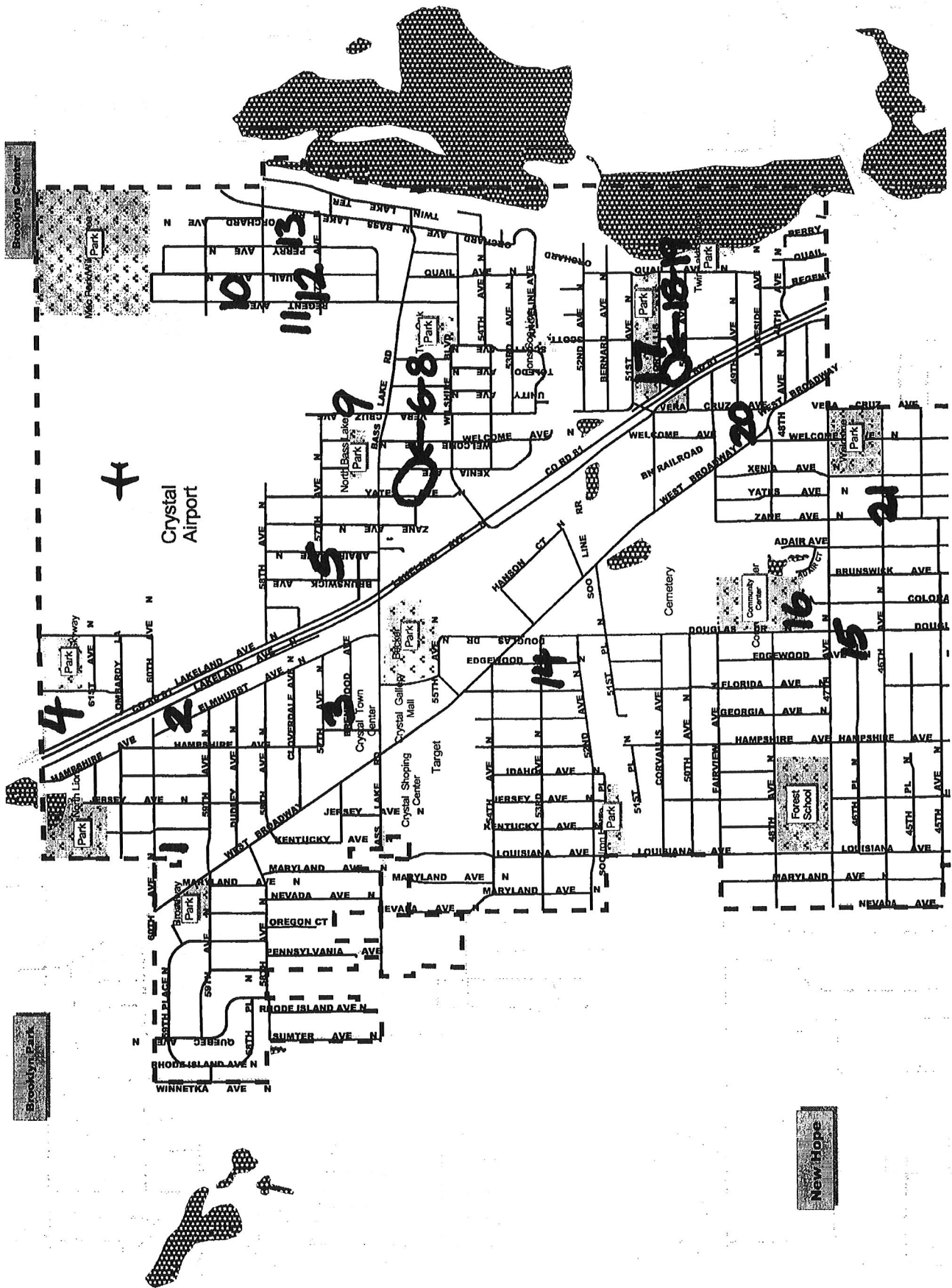
MAP #	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
1	7041 60th Ave N Crystal MN	(Funded by the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program, hereinafter "NSP".) In December 2012 the EDA transferred the lot to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity for new home construction, which is underway with completion anticipated in summer 2014.
2	5924 Elmhurst Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
3	6516 Brentwood Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in December 2013 for \$50,000. The builder has a buyer for the new house and construction is underway.
4	6601 62nd Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
5	5657 Adair Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in October 2013 for \$50,000. The builder has listed the house for sale on the MLS and construction is underway.
6	5548 Yates Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in May 2013 for \$50,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
7	5533 Xenia Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in October 2012 for \$50,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
8	5527 Xenia Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in April 2013 for \$50,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
9	5626 Vera Cruz Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
10	5824 Regent Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$55,000.
11	5715 Regent Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
12	5700 Regent Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
13	5724 Perry Ave N Crystal MN	(NSP) In December 2012 the EDA transferred the lot to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity for new home construction to occur in 2014.
14	5255 Edgewood Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
15	4633 Douglas Dr N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in April 2013 for \$50,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
16	4720 Douglas Dr N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
17	"The Cavanagh" 5401 51st Ave N Crystal MN	In 1st quarter 2014, the EDA will sell the 4.3 acre former Cavanagh School site to Dominionium for \$1.1 million. In 2nd quarter 2014, Dominionium will begin construction on a four story, 130 unit senior building with rents affordable for households at 60% of Twin Cities metropolitan area median income. Completion is anticipated by summer 2015.

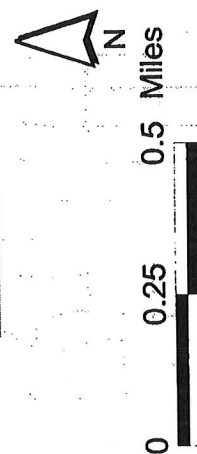
MAP #	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
18	5335 Corvallis Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA purchased excess CR81 right-of-way from Hennepin County in October 2012 and replatted it into multiple parcels (hereinafter "CR81"). The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
19	5332 50th Ave N Crystal MN	(CR81) The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$45,000.
20	4901 Vera Cruz Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
21	4553 Yates Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to Berger Built Construction in December 2013 for \$40,000. Construction on the new house will begin in 1st half 2014. The builder has listed the house for sale on the MLS.
22	4312 Brunswick Ave N Crystal MN	(NSP) In December 2012 the EDA transferred the lot to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. The new house has been completed and sold.
23	4330 Zane Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to MT Builders in June 2013 for \$40,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
24	4326 Zane Ave N Crystal MN	MT Builders has optioned this lot until July 16, 2014 with a lot price of \$45,000.
25	4349 Xenia Ave N Crystal MN	MT Builders has optioned this lot until May 15, 2014 with a lot price of \$50,000.
26	4343 Xenia Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA sold this lot to MT Builders in July 2013 for \$50,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
27	4331 Vera Cruz Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$50,000.
28	3564 Welcome Ave N Crystal MN	(MnDOT) The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in September 2013 for \$27,000. The lot price was discounted to account for the cost of removing excess fill, re-grading and compacting the building pad. The builder has a buyer for the new house which is nearly complete.
29	3556 Welcome Ave N Crystal MN	(MnDOT) The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in September 2013 for \$50,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
30	3548 Welcome Ave N Crystal MN	(MnDOT) The EDA sold this lot to Novak-Fleck in July 2013 for \$55,000. The new house has been completed and sold.
31	5501 32nd Ave N Crystal MN	(MnDOT) This 2.6 acre site is south of 32nd and west of the Highway 100 noise wall/trail. It is guided for low density residential development. The EDA expects to sell it for development of either single family houses or low density townhomes as market conditions warrant. Upon development the trail may be relocated closer to the noise wall.
32	5417 35th Ave N Crystal MN	(MnDOT) This lot is on hold due to the discovery of a water main crossing the lot and bad soils in excess of those indicated by previous studies.
33	5116 35th Ave N Crystal MN	(NSP) In December 2012 the EDA transferred the lot to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity for new home construction which is nearly complete.
34	3528 Noble Ave N Crystal MN	(NSP) In December 2012 the EDA transferred the lot to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. The new house has been completed and sold.
35	3533 Lee Ave N Crystal MN	The EDA is seeking new house proposals with a lot price of \$40,000.

**For an online, mapped version, please see:**

**[http://www.crystalmn.gov/city\\_departments/quarterly\\_development\\_status\\_report.html](http://www.crystalmn.gov/city_departments/quarterly_development_status_report.html)**





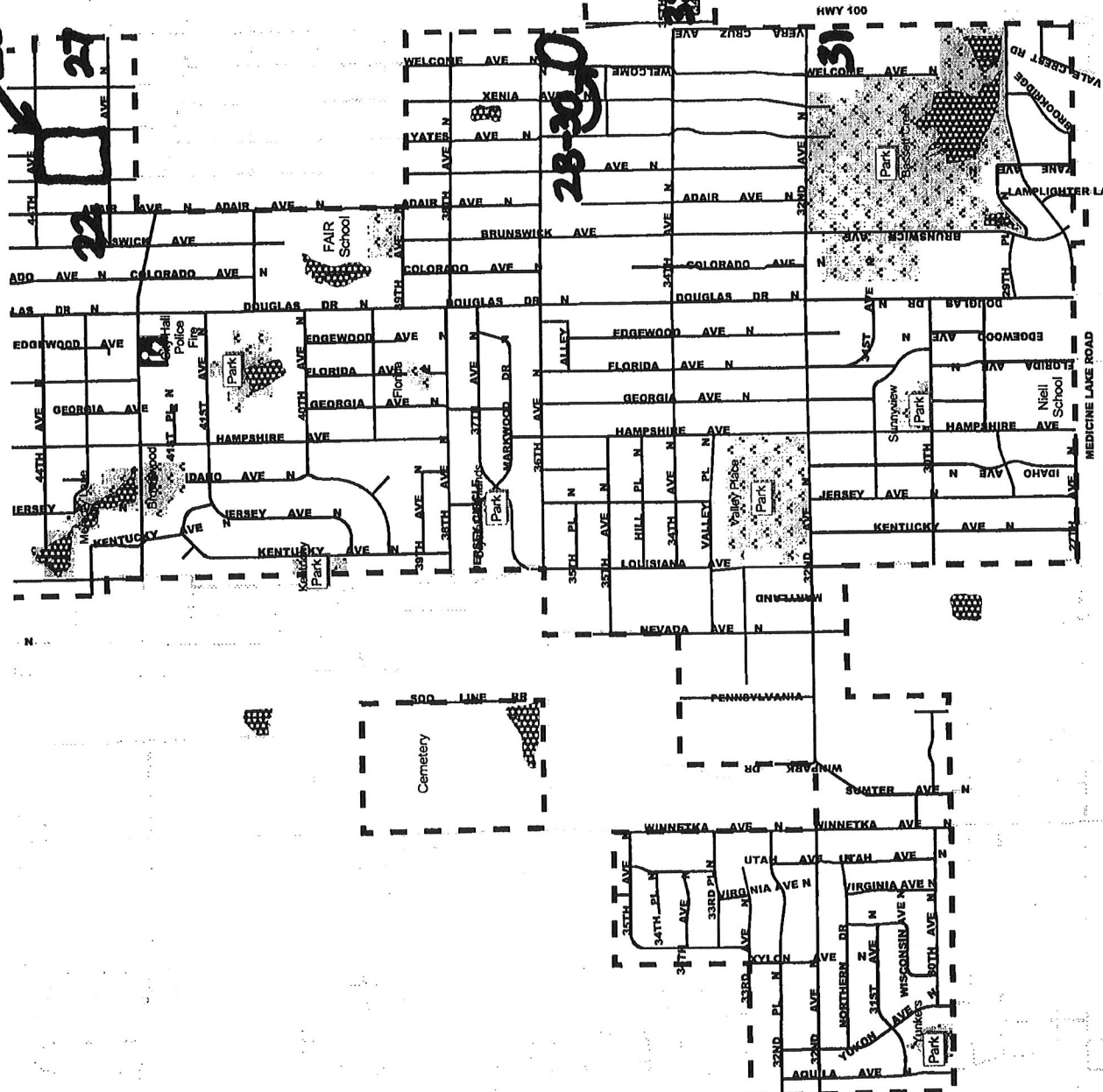


Golden Valley

Robbinsdale

23-26

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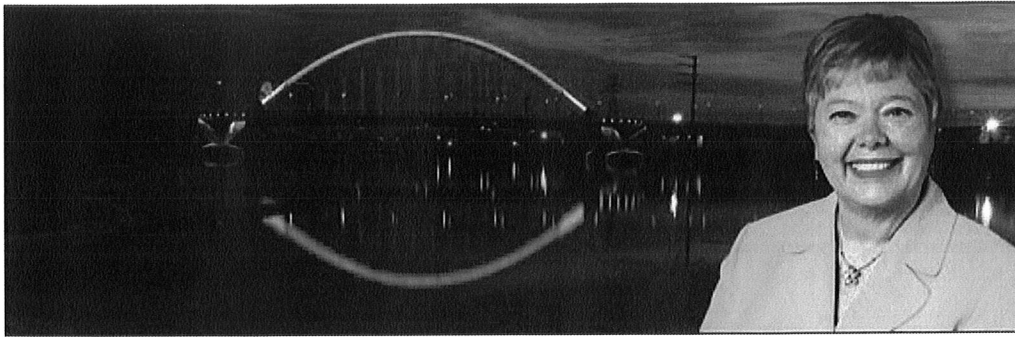


- What: Halfway Happy Hour (15<sup>th</sup> of every month)  
When: Wednesday January 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8pm  
Where: El Loro on West Broadway, Crystal  
Who: Crystal residents, friends, families, neighbors  
Why: Promote Crystal Restaurants/Bars while growing an engaged and inviting community.



**Please join us at our 3rd "Halfway Happy Hour" to have some fun and meet other Crystal residents.**

**We encourage you to look for and join our Facebook group "The Light of Crystal" for more details and news on upcoming events including a No-Tap Bowling Tournament on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Doyle's.**



## Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

Issue One

### In Touch With District 2

#### Happy New Year!

##### Looking back at 2013

As I look back at my first year with Hennepin County, I wanted to share with you some highlights. Major projects include:

- A new *human services hub* at Plymouth and Emerson Avenues North now under construction;
- *Penn Avenue Community Works* and *Lowry Avenue Northeast Community Works*;
- *Lowry bridge* lighting policy;
- *Bottineau* and *Southwest LRT* lines;
- improved Hennepin County *tax forfeit land sale procedures*;
- a new *911 call center* being built in Plymouth;
- a temporary library when the *Webber Park library* was closed because of structural defects and funding to build a replacement library;
- Opening of the long-awaited *Van White bridge*;
- A pilot project called *Workforce Incentive Network (WIN)* to try to reduce the number of people in North Minneapolis on public assistance;
- An *innovation grant* from the state for WIN;
- New *pedestrian and bicycle bridge* on the *Luce Line Trail* to safely cross over *Xenium Lane (CSAH 61)*;
- *Recycling grants* to businesses, schools, and apartments;
- Funding for the *Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission* for *water quality improvements* in *Golden Valley*;
- *Job training* and jobs for formerly incarcerated individuals;
- *Foster homes* and *adoptions*;
- A new *sister counties* program;
- A new *Target Field Station* (formerly

Interchange) *transit hub* to be open before the All-Star Game;

- Added *bilingual staff* to the *Domestic Abuse Center*;
- *Youth sports grants*;
- Breaking ground on first natural public *swimming pool* in North America at *Webber Park*.



Breaking ground for the 911 center in Plymouth

I also have represented the county on the:

- *Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership*;
- *St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board*;
- *Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)* board of directors;
- *AMC health and human services policy committee*;
- *Metropolitan Emergency Services Board* (I was sworn in as chair this week);
- *NorthPoint board*;
- *Northern Lights Express board*;
- *Northstar board*;
- *Red Rock Corridor commission*;
- *National Association of Counties human services and education committee*.

Thanks for your help in 2013. I look forward to another productive year in 2014. Happy New Year!

*Linda Higgins*

#### To Contact Our Office

Commissioner

Linda Higgins

[Email](#)

Phone 612-348-7882

[www.hennepin.us/higgins](http://www.hennepin.us/higgins)

Principal Aide Tina Sanz

[Email](#)

Phone 612-348-5335

Administrative Secretary

Roshonda A. Royston

[Email](#)

Phone 612-348-3526

A2400 Government Center  
300 S. 6th St.

Minneapolis, MN 55487

[Map It!](#)

#### Did You Know?

You can subscribe to many online services on the county website: Click [here](#) and see what information is interesting or useful to you.

Enter your email or cell phone number and then select which items interest you, such as tax-forfeited real estate auctions, public health updates, even property tax due date reminders.

## Fill Up Your Calendar With These Upcoming Events in District 2

**St. Anthony:** *Saturday, January 11, 3 to 5 pm.* Citizens for Sustainability one-year anniversary celebration and update. SAVCC Council Chambers, 3301 Silver Lake Rd. Refreshments and entertainment provided.

*Starting the week of Jan. 13, morning and evening classes.* St. Anthony-New Brighton School District's Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program offers classes for parents and children birth to age five. Space is still available for families to enroll in the eight-week session. Register online at [stanthony.ce.feepay.com/#-/search/ecfe](http://stanthony.ce.feepay.com/#-/search/ecfe) or call 612-706-1166. ECFE class fees are on a sliding fee scale; scholarships are also available for families.

**Northeast:** *Saturday, Jan. 11, 5 to 8 pm.* Hops for Hunger II, a craft beer tasting fundraiser, will take place on at the Solar Arts Building, 711 15th Ave. NE, in Northeast Minneapolis. All proceeds will go to the Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA) food shelf. Last year, this fundraiser raised enough money to provide 70,000 pounds of food for SACA. For more information or to purchase tickets (\$40), visit [nenews.com](http://nenews.com).

**North:** *Saturday, Jan. 11, 1 to 3 pm.* Grand opening of the Webber Park Library temporary location. See page 2.

*Volunteer by shoveling snow for seniors.* Help a senior citizen remain independent in their home by volunteering to shovel walkways and driveways this winter. Locations in North or Southwest Minneapolis. Work alone or as a group; one time or on an ongoing basis. Contact Jeanne the NIP Seniors Program, 612-746-8549, email [srvolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org](mailto:srvolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org) or visit [neighborhoodinvolve.org](http://neighborhoodinvolve.org) for more information.

*Wednesdays, Jan. 15, 4 to 7:30 pm. (for 4 weeks).* Wirth Wild Winter Wednesdays. Youth ages 4 to 17 get free snow tube rental (tow rope currently not working). First come, first served. Wirth recreation area, 1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis. [minneapolisparcs.org](http://minneapolisparcs.org).

**North Loop:** *Weds., Jan. 29, 7 pm.* North Loop Annual Board meeting at Aria, 105 1st St. N, Mpls. [northloop.org](http://northloop.org).

**Golden Valley:** *Wednesdays, Jan. 22 through Feb. 26, 10:30 am.* Family storytime for children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement. [Golden Valley Library](http://Golden Valley Library), 830 Winnetka Ave N.

*Tuesdays for seven weeks starting Jan. 28.* The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) is taking applications for its 2014 Citizens' Police Academy. Classes are held from 6 to 9 pm in the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Rd. You'll get a first-hand look at how things work behind the scenes at your local police department. Registration and background check required, space is limited. [goldenvalleymn.gov](http://goldenvalleymn.gov).

**Plymouth:** *Saturday, February 1, 2 to 7 pm.* Plymouth will hold the 25th annual Fire and Ice Festival at Parkers Lake Park, off of County Road 6 and Niagara Lane. Festivities will commence with recycling bin races, a youth ice fishing contest, goofy hat contest, petting zoo, hayrides, pony and sled-dog rides, miniature golf on the ice, snow bowling, a bonfire with s'mores and hot chocolate, and recreational skating. Activities will be held until 5:30 pm. Food trucks (for a charge) will be present. Information at [plymouthmn.gov](http://plymouthmn.gov).

*Sunday, Feb. 2, 9 am to 12:30 pm.* All-you-can-eat (from scratch with toppings) [waffle breakfast](http://wafflebreakfast) to raise funds for senior programming. \$7 ages six and older, \$4 ages five and younger. Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave N.

**Multiple Communities:** Southwest LRT meeting. *Thursday, Jan. 9, 5 to 7:30 pm.* St. Louis Park Recreation Center, 3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park (map at [goo.gl/maps/waC5T](http://goo.gl/maps/waC5T)). The Metropolitan Council will host public community meetings focused on studies now underway of freight rail, water resources and landscaping / greenscaping in the Kenilworth area of Minneapolis for the SW LRT line. Future updates/information at [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org).

*Second Saturdays, through April, 10 am to 1 pm.* Mill City Farmers Market indoors including 40 vendors with local and specialty food products. Market dates: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, and April 12. Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis. [millcityfarmersmarket.org](http://millcityfarmersmarket.org).

*Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 am.* Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast. Keynote with Donna Brazile. Convention Ctr., Ballroom A, 1301 2nd Ave. S., Mpls. Tickets \$30. [mlkbreakfast.com](http://mlkbreakfast.com).

*Tuesday, Jan. 28, 6:30 to 8 pm.* Self-defense workshop with MPD and Mary Brandl, a 4th degree black belt with Midwest Karate Association and Self Defense PE instructor at the University of MN. Learn to recognize a possible attack in the making, and how you can use distance, body language, and tone of voice to avert a potential attack. Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE, Door 3 from the parking lot. FREE, but registration is requested, Call 612-673-2874/e: [Susan.Webb@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Susan.Webb@minneapolismn.gov).

*Tuesday, Feb. 4 (various locations).* Precinct caucuses are meetings organized by Minnesota's political parties, typically on the first Tuesday in February of a statewide election year. It is the first step for the party to select candidates and choose the party's goals and values. Visit the Secretary of State's web site for party contact and other information [sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=886](http://sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=886).

*If you have events you would like to promote in our newsletter, drop an email to [tina.sanz@hennepin.us](mailto:tina.sanz@hennepin.us).*



## County board approves 2014 budget

### 2014 Hennepin County budget calls for 0.57 percent decrease in spending

On December 17, 2013, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a 2014 county budget of \$1.78 billion – a 0.57 percent decrease from the 2013 budget, and a 0.98 percent increase in the net property tax levy from 2013.

In addition, the board, acting as the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA), approved an HCRRA budget of \$27.7 million, with a proposed property tax levy of \$24.0 million – a \$3 million increase from 2013. The HCRRA seeks to improve rail modes of transportation to reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility.

The board, acting as the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HCRA), approved an HCHRA

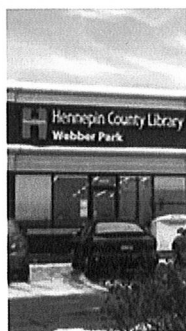
budget of \$15.2 million, with a proposed property tax levy of \$6.97 million – an increase of approximately \$535,000 from 2013. The HCHRA authorizes strategic planning and community engagement to serve the housing and economic development and redevelopment of Hennepin County.

Hennepin County has maintained a top triple-A credit rating from all three rating agencies for 38 years. The top rating reflects strong county management overall, as well as sound financial condition.

To learn more about Hennepin County's budget, visit the [budget and finance webpage](#).

## AN INVITATION

Webber Park



### Grand opening of the Webber Park Library temporary location

Saturday, January 11  
1 to 3 p.m.  
Camden Center,  
4203 Webber Parkway,  
Minneapolis, MN 55412

### Join me for the grand opening of the Webber Park Library temporary location Saturday, January 11

Please join Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins, Library Director Lois Thompson, Friends of the Webber Park Library and other distinguished guests to celebrate the opening of a new temporary location for Hennepin County Library – Webber Park.

The books are on the shelves, the computers are in place, and the open sign is on! Join us at this community celebration including local musicians, light refreshments and a scavenger hunt for kids.

## Get help paying your heating bill

Utilities Xcel and CenterPoint Energy have affordability programs to help qualifying customers lower their monthly heating bills and pay past due balances. If customers make their monthly installment payments, they will only be paying up to 4% of their annual household income toward their past due balance.

To qualify for the program, customers must have received a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant for the current heating season. Households who are at or below 50 percent of the state median income are eligible. Click here for [eligibility guidelines](#) and further information about applying for LIHEAP. [Click here](#) to read the Hennepin County fact sheet, which further explains emergency assistance. Questions? Contact your utility or [Energy Cents Coalition](#) (651-774-9010).



## Looking for something new? Volunteer with Hennepin

***Are you looking for something new to try in the new year? There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer with Hennepin County.***

Volunteering provides an opportunity for people of all ages and interests to get involved in the community. Volunteer opportunities exist in Corrections, Human Services, Environmental, the Library and elsewhere.

If you can contribute a few extra hours each month to help, Hennepin County needs your enthusiasm, your time and your willingness to make a difference.



Lisa volunteers with her therapy dog Bridget

Visit [hennepin.us/your-government#get-involved](http://hennepin.us/your-government#get-involved) or call 612.348.9900.

## Work for Hennepin County

Our website shows 29 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include civil engineer, developer, human services representative, office specialist I (Spanish bilingual), veteran services rep., IT positions and more! If you're looking for a job or know someone who is looking, please check out this resource. Click [here](#) to see the list. The Library also has help at [www.hclib.org/pub/search/SubjectGuides.cfm?Topic=Jobs/Careers](http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/SubjectGuides.cfm?Topic=Jobs/Careers)  
**Hennepin County is a great place to work!**

## Tips to prevent identity theft

Here is a link from County Attorney Mike Freeman to some [good tips and resources](#) to help prevent identify theft.

If you think you might be a victim, contact the police. Report every incident to your local police department or the department where the fraudulent transaction occurred. See also [hennepinattorney.org/IdentityTheft.aspx](http://hennepinattorney.org/IdentityTheft.aspx).

## Community Informational Sessions for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Community informational sessions are offered to keep families, clients and providers informed about service options and application processes. These sessions are free and open to the public (registration requested and/or required). See [hennepin.us/~media/hennepinus/residents/human-services/docs/InfoSessionBooklet\\_January%20through%20April%202014.pdf](http://hennepin.us/~media/hennepinus/residents/human-services/docs/InfoSessionBooklet_January%20through%20April%202014.pdf) for dates, time, and locations of sessions and for other information such as:

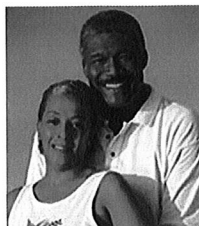
**Long term care services** including developmental disabilities waiver, waivers for individuals under 65, and services for seniors.

**Developmental disabilities services**, including adult housing and transitional services.

**Consumer directed options** (this service is for those who want to hire, train, and supervise their own staff, write their own plans, and have more flexibility to purchase generic community supports).

**Financial information**, including health care in financial/homecare programs for assisted living/nursing home placement; spenddowns; financial and medical programs for children-TEFRA; and financial and medical for adults.

**Non-Hennepin County Agency Services.** Organizations operated independently.



## Job assistance is as close as your computer

Job seeking assistance is available as close as your computer from the Hennepin County Library.

Many tools are available at [hclib.org/pub/search/subjectguides.cfm?topic=jobs/careers](http://hclib.org/pub/search/subjectguides.cfm?topic=jobs/careers).

For online resume and interview coaching and career advice from job help professionals, visit [hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=JobNow&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics\\_Display=](http://hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=JobNow&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics_Display=).

A tool to create and save resumes and cover letters (including tools to help you prepare for a job search) is available at [http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=OptimalResume&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics\\_Display=](http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=OptimalResume&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics_Display=) (note: Subscription purchased with funding from Hennepin).



Approved 1-6-14

**JOINT WATER COMMISSION MINUTES  
Golden Valley - Crystal - New Hope  
Meeting of December 4, 2013**

The Golden Valley – Crystal – New Hope Joint Water Commission meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m. in the City of Golden Valley Council Conference Room.

**Commissioners Present**

Tom Burt, City Manager, Golden Valley  
Kirk McDonald, City Manager, New Hope  
Anne Norris, City Manager, Crystal

**Staff Present**

Tom Mathisen, City Engineer, Crystal  
Randy Kloepper, Utilities Superintendent, Crystal  
Bob Paschke, Director of Public Works, New Hope  
Bernie Weber, Utilities Supervisor, New Hope  
Sue Virnig, Finance Director, Golden Valley  
Jeannine Clancy, Director of Public Works, Golden Valley  
Bert Tracy, Public Works Utility Manager, Golden Valley  
Kelley Janes, Utilities Supervisor, Golden Valley  
Pat Schutrop, Administrative Assistant, Golden Valley

**Others Present**

Steve Nelson, Bolton Menk, Inc.

**Minutes of November 6, 2013 Meeting**

MOVED by McDonald and seconded by Norris to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2013 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Capital Improvements Program Update**

The TAC revised and prioritized projects on the 2014-2018 CIP to include the emergency backup water supply wells and the Crystal reservoir emergency generator. The JWC discussed bonding for all projects. The JWC can bond for \$4.5 million; however, that would leave no margin for any type of emergency. The bond would cover the wells and the emergency generator at Crystal, but other projects will be prioritized by the TAC.

After discussion, the JWC recommended moving the 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue watermain project (\$720,000) to 2016 and adding \$55,000 for replacement of SCADA computers and software upgrades in 2018.

Security for the Golden Valley water tower was discussed. Golden Valley is working with Pro-Tec to secure the tower. There is a problem securing the reservoir due to a lack of fiber available along Golden Valley Road.

MOVED by Norris and seconded by McDonald to approve the amended 2014-2018 CIP. Motion carried.

#### **Emergency Backup Water Supply Plan**

Steve Nelson, Bolton & Menk (B&M), updated the JWC on progress being made regarding the wells. B&M have identified two well locations in Golden Valley and one in Crystal. The proposed Golden Valley well site #1 is at the reservoir by Wirth Parkway near Hidden Lakes. Clancy will give the MPRB contact information to Steve so he can discuss any concerns with them. Site #2 proposed will be an open trench and trenchless through the golf course. This site will need a survey done. Access would be through the meter vault/pump station. The MPRB will not issue any easements and B&M will need to talk to the golf course staff about doing the trenching and any interruptions construction might cause.

The well proposed in Crystal is located west of Douglas Drive. B&M talked with residents and the church located in that location. They will need to evaluate the quality of the water at this site.

Using the proposed Crystal well and selecting one of the two proposed wells in Golden Valley, B&M does not expect the costs to reach \$4 million. More surveying work is needed to help determine the best location of the wells, a water quality evaluation, and conducting conversations with the electrical customer needs before the bid documents can be prepared.

#### **Contract for Engineering Services - Crystal Pump Station Emergency Generator Design and Construction**

Mathisen presented an agreement for professional services with EDI, Limited to provide engineering services for the design and construction of the emergency backup generator for the Crystal pump station. The contract is a lump sum amount of \$12,500. The generator will be purchased from Cat Ziegler and Mathisen thought Cat was part of the HGAC bidding consortium. Mathisen would like to order the generator by the end of the month and have the generator installed by March 1st. The cost of the generator will be about \$450,000 to \$500,000. The pump station pack is broken and will cost about \$960 to be replaced.

MOVED BY Morris and seconded by McDonald to approve the contract with EDI, Limited for engineering services for a lump sum amount of \$12,500 and to direct the City of Crystal to purchase the generator and pack. Motion carried.

#### **Contract with PureTech SmartFlow Testing of 36" Pipeline**

Mathisen presented the contract with Pure Technologies U.S., Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$53,300. The JWC approved the quote amount of \$53,300 at the November meeting. As a result of the Pure-Tech inspection, no leaks were found. Mathisen added that even though due diligence was done and no leaks were found, that does not suggest the pipes are not compromised in some other way (such as rotting around the pipe). When pipes are compromised, it is usually a surface leak or at a joint. Clancy asked how often leak testing should be done. Mathisen thought if magnetic testing was done next year, another inspection would not be necessary for 10 years or so.

MOVED by Norris and seconded by McDonald to approve the contract with Pure Technologies U.S., Inc. for the amount not to exceed \$53,300. Motion carried.

**Update on County Road 9 and JWC Pipeline Project**

The project is moving forward. The final bid package will be assembled in January 2014. Mathisen is waiting for cost information from Stantec for the parts that need to be ordered. He will bring the costs to the JWC in January for approval of the purchase.

**January 9, 2014 Tri-City Council Meeting**

The three city councils will meet at 6:30 p.m. on January 9, 2014 at the City of Golden Valley. Bonnie Morey, SEH, Inc., will attend to facilitate the discussion. Staff will put together background information on the emergency backup water supply plan for the newly appointed city council members. Steve Nelson, Bolton & Menk, will also give a presentation. The final design and financing plan will be discussed and the revised 2014-2018 CIP will be presented.

**Other Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

The January 2014 meeting falls on New Year's Day. The JWC wants to meet prior to the January 9<sup>th</sup> Tri-City Council meeting therefore all decided to meet on Monday, January 6, at 1:30 pm as the first JWC meeting in 2014.

**Adjournment**

Chair Burt adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas D. Burt, Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Schutrop, Recording Secretary

# CITIES BULLETIN

Issue 1

Jan. 6, 2014

## **New Year Brings New Laws**

A number of laws impacting cities that were passed by the 2013 Legislature went into effect on Jan. 1, 2014. Scroll down.

### **In Other News**

#### **DNR to Host Meeting on North and East Metro Groundwater Issues**

Invited cities are strongly encouraged to participate in the meeting. Scroll down.

#### **New Municipal Advisor Regulations Take Effect Jan. 13**

The new rules require municipal advisors to register with the SEC, and mandate a new level of disclosure. Scroll down.

#### **PTSD Changes Raise Concerns for Workers' Compensation Reinsurance**

The 2013 workers' compensation law change that added post-traumatic stress disorder as an occupational disease could result

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a pdf of all articles  
in this issue](#)

### **Featured Events**

**Webinar: Role With It—  
Individual vs. Council Authority**  
*Jan. 14—11 a.m.-12 p.m.*

**Newly Elected Officials: 2014  
Leadership Conference**  
*Jan. 31-Feb. 1—Brooklyn Center*

**Experienced Officials: 2014  
Leadership Conference**  
*Jan. 31-Feb. 1—Brooklyn Center*

in increased costs. [Read more.](#)

### State Senator Continuing Border-to-Border Broadband Tour

The public is invited to participate in the broadband discussion at one of several scheduled meetings across the state this month. Scroll down.

#### Centennial Spotlight

#### A Farewell to the League's Centennial, and Happy New Year to You!

All good things must come to an end, and the League's centennial year is no exception. In our last centennial blog posts, hear from Executive Director Jim Miller on what poignant lesson he's learned about making an organization great, and meet a town crier with well-wishes for the new year!

#### More Information and Resources

[Take LMC 2014 Fiscal Conditions Survey by Jan. 10](#)

[Learn the Proper Roles of Elected City Officials During a Free Webinar](#)

[City of Madelia Honored with Local Government Innovation Award](#)

[Newly Elected Officials: Get the New Year Off to a Great Start at a 2014 Leadership Conference Just for You!](#)

[Experienced Officials: Do You Know How to Turn Challenging Situations Into Productive Ones?](#)

[One Month Early! Save the Date for the 2014 Joint Legislative Conference: Feb. 27](#)

[Sign Up to Receive Notifications of MPCA Rulemaking](#)

[Blandin Foundation to Host Broadband Conference](#)

#### Training, Conferences, Events

[Upcoming League Events](#)

[Online Training/E-Learning](#)

[Co-Sponsored Events](#)

[Events Sponsored by Other Organizations](#)

**2014 Joint Legislative Conference for Cities, Counties, Schools & Townships**  
*Feb. 27—St. Paul*

#### Quick Links

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- [City Jobs](#)
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- [Weekly 4M Fund Rates](#)  
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**Contact IGR Staff**

*For editorial or other Bulletin questions:*  
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## New Year Brings New Laws



**A number of laws impacting cities that were passed by the 2013 Legislature went into effect on Jan. 1, 2014.**

While most bills passed by the 2013 Legislature became effective last year, some laws of significance to cities just became effective on Jan. 1.

### **Local government sales tax exemption**

The local government sales tax exemption went into effect on Jan. 1, and most, but not all, city purchases will be exempt from the general sales tax. The League has worked extensively with the Department of Revenue (DOR) to provide information to cities about how the new law will be implemented. The League strongly encourages all cities to review the Local Government Sales Tax FAQ.

- **View the LMC Local Government Sales Tax FAQ (pdf)** *(Link to:*

*[http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/salestaxexemption\\_faq.pdf](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/salestaxexemption_faq.pdf)*)

The most notable exception to the exemption is that the purchase of goods and services used as inputs to goods and services generally provided by a private business are still subject to the sales tax. The law specifically states that goods or services provided by liquor stores, gas and electric utilities, golf courses, marinas, health and fitness centers, campgrounds, cafes, and laundromats are taxable. Goods and services generally provided by a private business do not include housing services, sewer and water services, wastewater treatment, ambulance and other public safety services, correctional services, core or homemaking services provided to elderly or disabled individuals, or road and street maintenance or lighting. Any other service is subject to interpretation by DOR.

If a city purchases goods that will be used for taxable and nontaxable services (e.g., office supplies used by the city clerk's office and the community center), then the city must allocate a portion of the sale to the taxable use and pay the sales and use tax on that portion.

Another significant sticking point with the new law is that purchases by most joint powers agencies will not be exempt from the sales tax. The League has spent considerable time attempting to resolve this issue with the Department of Revenue, but it appears that a legislative fix will be necessary. Exempting purchases made by joint powers entities will be one of the League's top priorities in the 2014 legislative session.

### **Police and fire pension contributions increase**

The 2013 Legislature passed a solvency package to shore up funding for the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Police & Fire pension fund. The package includes contribution rate increases for employers and employees. The solvency package also includes numerous benefit savings provisions.

Beginning on Jan. 1, the employer contribution rate increased by 0.9 percent of salary to 15.3 percent, and the employee contribution rate increased by 0.6 percent of salary to 10.2 percent. An identical increase will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2015. The new contributions must be

deducted from the first paychecks issued in 2014 and apply to the total salary paid, even if all or part was earned in 2013.

- **Read more about the PERA P&F changes** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/PERA-PF-changes.jsp>)

### **Changes to absentee voting**

Beginning with the 2014 elections, Minnesotans are no longer required to provide a reason or “excuse” for voting by absentee ballot. Prior to this change, if a voter was unable to be in his or her precinct on Election Day, the voter could vote absentee but had to provide an excuse for doing so. Though an excuse was required, there was no enforcement to verify the reasons given by voters.

Minnesota now joins 27 other states that allow no-excuse absentee voting. The omnibus elections bill also extends the time elections administrators have for processing absentee ballots. Now administrators can begin processing ballots seven days prior to Election Day instead of four.

- **Read more about changes to absentee voting** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/FONL-absenteevoting.jsp>)

### **Coal tar sealant ban**

A statewide ban on the sale and use of coal tar sealant products for asphalt surfaces went into effect on Jan. 1. (See **Minnesota Statutes, section 116.202** (Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=116.202>) .) Cities may adopt and enforce the ban, but are not required to do so.

The League worked closely with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to develop informational materials and a model ordinance for cities to use. The agency has done extensive work with applicators to prepare them for this change.

- **Read more about the coal tar sealant ban and access resources** (Link to:

<http://www.lmc.org/page/1/FONL-coaltar.jsp>)

### **County wheelage tax authority expanded**

The broadened authority for counties to impose an annual wheelage tax on motor vehicles went into effect on Jan. 1. Specifically, the new law expands the previous seven-county metropolitan area authority to all counties statewide. It also adjusts the tax rate to \$10 per vehicle, up from a \$5 limit.

The \$10 per vehicle rate will remain in effect until Jan. 1, 2018, after which time a tax of up to \$20 can be imposed. In the counties that have enacted a wheelage tax, it applies to vehicles subject to annual registration and taxation under **Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168** (Link to:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=168>) . City vehicles are not subject to the wheelage tax because they are

exempt from the registration taxes and fees under **Minnesota Statutes, section 168.012** (Link to:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=168.012>) .

### **Modification to surety deposit law**

The omnibus tax bill contained a small but important change to the surety deposit requirements for hiring non-Minnesota contractors. Effective Jan. 1, if you hire a non-Minnesota contractor



and the value of any contract is over \$50,000, you must withhold 8 percent of the total compensation as a surety deposit and send it to the Department of Revenue. The previous withholding requirement only applied if the total value of all contracts during the year with the vendor exceeded \$50,000.

- **Learn more about the withholding requirements from the DOR website** (Link to: <http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/businesses/withholding/Pages/NewSuretyDepositRequirementsforNonMinnesotaConstructionContractors.aspx>)

A summary of all 2013 legislation that impacts cities can be found in the *2013 Law Summaries*.

- **View the LMC 2013 Law Summaries (pdf)** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/lmcawsummaries13.pdf>)

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>)

## DNR to Host Meeting on North and East Metro Groundwater Issues



**Invited cities are strongly encouraged to participate in the meeting.**  
(Published Jan 6, 2014)

The **Department of Natural Resources** (Link to: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>) (DNR) has invited 50 communities and 200 businesses that have water appropriation permits in the north and east metro to a meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Jan. 8 at the **Shoreview Community Center** (Link to: <http://www.shoreviewcommunitycenter.com/>). These invitees are all within an area that is being designated as a **Groundwater Management Area** (Link to: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/areas.html>) due to concerns about the use of groundwater in the area being unsustainable. The proposed area covers all of Washington and Ramsey counties and the southern third of Anoka County.

The meeting will cover what the state is proposing to do in that area; how it could affect water appropriation permit holders and their current and future appropriation needs; and what the expected timeline, process, and products of this effort will be. The department's goal is to have permit holders involved at an earlier stage of development than might normally be the case to make sure perspectives and concerns are understood as draft plans are developed, so it is important for invited cities to have both elected officials and appropriate staff in attendance, if possible. It is expected that there will be future meetings with this same group to keep the communication and feedback loop open as this statutorily required process moves forward.

The DNR is the state agency responsible for determining what amounts of water can be used in any given area and for issuing permits for large water users. The 2013 legislative session had extensive discussions about groundwater use that resulted in the DNR being tasked with developing groundwater management areas when overall water use in an area is found to be unsustainable. The North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area is one of the high priority areas due to visible indicators like the water level drop in White Bear Lake.

### **Establishing precedent for city involvement**

The League and the **Minnesota Chamber of Commerce** (Link to: <https://www.mnchamber.com/>) have agreed to

co-sponsor these meetings as a way to ensure that our members have as much involvement and communication with the state as possible. In addition to direct impacts to city water systems, there are issues of fairness about how agricultural irrigation is affected, how the many thousands of smaller wells are included in solving identified problems, and whether any changes proposed create pressure for private wells within utility service areas or for development to occur outside public water supply service areas.

The North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area is the first to be developed in the state, but other regions will see the same sort of process in the future, so how cities are included in this process will establish a precedence that will have statewide importance. The League will continue to be directly involved in making sure that city concerns are highlighted and understood as this process moves forward.

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

## **Your LMC Resource**

### **Contact Craig Johnson**

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## **New Municipal Advisor Regulations Take Effect Jan. 13**



**The new rules require municipal advisors to register with the SEC, and mandate a new level of disclosure.**

(Published Jan 6, 2014)

For the better part of the last three years, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has been considering proposed rules intended to provide greater protection for municipalities working with “municipal advisors.” While municipal interests were generally supportive of the rules, there were initial concerns that the definition of municipal advisor was overly broad and might include some municipal officials, as well as professionals such as city attorneys, city engineers, and accountants. The League and other state and federal associations submitted comments to the SEC, and the final rules issued on Sept. 20, 2013 (effective Jan, 13, 2014) generally addressed the concerns of municipal entities.

The new rules—which are complicated and exhaustive in their scope—require municipal advisors to register with the SEC, and mandate a new level of disclosure. The intent is to provide greater transparency within the municipal financial world.

Historically, cities and other local governments that issue municipal bonds have relied on advisors to help them decide how and when to issue the securities and how to invest proceeds

from the sales. In July 2010, Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Act, which included a provision to protect municipalities, taxpayers, and investors from conflicted advice and unregulated advisors. The new SEC rules attempt to address this concern.

A “municipal advisor” is a person (who is not a municipal entity or an employee of a municipal entity) who provides advice to or on behalf of a municipal entity with respect to municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities, or that undertakes a solicitation of a municipal entity or obligated person.

Professionals such as city attorneys, city engineers, and accountants are exempted from the rules when those individuals are providing advice or services that are of a traditional nature with respect to the issuance of municipal securities or municipal financial products.

While the rules do not directly regulate cities, a number of the exemptions for those providing financial advice to municipalities (e.g., underwriters, brokers, etc.) are tied to a city having a financial advisor, or to the source of the funds being invested. Accordingly, cities may be asked to provide certain written representations. The League will continue to monitor this subject and provide additional advice as best practices develop.

- **Learn more about the new rules from the SEC website** (Link to: <http://www.sec.gov/info/smallbus/secg/muni-advisor-reg-secg.htm>)

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>)

## Your LMC Resource

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## PTSD Changes Raise Concerns for Workers' Compensation Reinsurance



**The 2013 workers' compensation law change that added post-traumatic stress disorder as an occupational disease could result in increased costs.**

(Published Jan 6, 2014)

The 2013 Legislature amended the workers' compensation statutes to extend coverage to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) arising in the course and scope of an employee's duties. As the new law is now being implemented, a significant unanticipated issue has been identified that could drive up workers' compensation insurance costs for self-insured entities as well as those entities that secure coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT).

State law requires workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers to purchase reinsurance from the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA). They can select from one of three retention limits, and the WCRA then provides reimbursement for statutory benefits once the selected limit has been reached as the result of an "occurrence."

The costs of injuries to multiple employees arising from a single occurrence are typically aggregated for purposes of determining when retention limits have been reached and the WCRA is obligated to provide reimbursement. At the time the 2013 amendments were adopted, however, PTSD was classified as an occupational disease. In the case of an occupational disease, each individual employee's claim is treated as a separate occurrence, regardless of whether they arise from the same incident. Because the reinsurance retention amount for occupational diseases is calculated separately for each individual employee, instead of for all employees injured in the same incident, insurers and self-insureds face potentially much higher costs for PTSD claims than for other types of claims.

LMCIT and the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust are proposing to modify state statute to treat PTSD events involving multiple employees as one occurrence for retention purposes. The proposed changes would not affect the amount of workers' compensation benefits that individual employees receive. It would simply reflect how PTSD differs from the occupational diseases traditionally subject to individual limits and allow PTSD to be treated the same as other personal injuries for purposes of WCRA reinsurance. The League has met with the WCRA to discuss a possible change in state law and at this point, the WCRA Board has indicated that they are generally supportive of the change.

Several groups, including the League, will be presenting this proposal to the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) on Jan. 8 with the goal of receiving the support of the WCAC. The WCAC is the permanent council representing labor and business to address issues and recommend legislation pertaining to workers' compensation. Support of the WCAC would significantly improve the likelihood of passage of this proposed change.

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

#### **Contact Gary Carlson**

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#### **Contact Dan Greensweig**

LMCIT Assistant Director

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### **State Senator Continuing Border-to-Border Broadband Tour**



**The public is invited to participate in the broadband discussion at one of several scheduled meetings across the state this month.**

(Published Jan 6, 2014)

To help move Minnesota forward to reach its broadband goal, **Sen. Matt Schmit** ([Link to: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?mem\\_id=1198](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?mem_id=1198)) (DFL-Red Wing) is hosting a series of conversations on broadband in Minnesota. Minnesotans are also urged to contact their own legislators to attend the local meetings and become more informed on the issue of broadband.

Sen. Schmit will address local leadership perspective and give background on local broadband initiatives. He will also address how broadband—and the lack thereof—is affecting health care providers, educators, local government, and business.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **Jan. 6 at 3 p.m., hosted by Chisago County HRA**  
North Branch Regional Library  
6355 379th St.  
North Branch, MN 55056
- **Jan. 7 at 8 a.m., hosted by City of Chatfield**  
Chatfield City Hall—Council chambers  
21 Second St. SE  
Chatfield, MN 55923
- **Jan. 7 at 2 p.m., hosted by Arrowhead Regional Development Commission**  
ARDC Building  
221 W. First St.  
Duluth, MN 55802
- **Jan. 8 at 9:30 a.m., hosted by Hubbard County Regional Economic Development Commission**  
Northwoods Bank community room  
1200 First Street E.  
Park Rapids, MN 56470
- **Jan. 8 at 12 p.m., hosted by Park Rapids Rotary**  
St. Joseph's Area Health Services basement meeting room  
600 Pleasant Ave.  
Park Rapids, MN 56470
- **Jan. 8 at 3 p.m., hosted by Todd County Fiberband Committee**  
Todd County Courthouse boardroom (3rd floor)  
212 Second Ave. S.  
Long Prairie, MN 56347
- **Jan. 9 at 8:30 a.m., hosted by Aitkin county**  
Aitkin Courthouse boardroom  
217 Second St. NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

- **Jan. 9 at 4 p.m., hosted by City of Annandale**  
Annandale City Hall community room  
30 Cedar St. E.  
Annandale, MN
- **Jan. 10 at 9 a.m., hosted by City of Ortonville**  
Ortonville Public Library media center  
412 Second St. NW  
Ortonville, MN 56278
- **Jan. 10 at 1:30 p.m., hosted by Southwest Minnesota Regional Economic Development Commission**  
SWRDC Building  
2401 Broadway Ave., Suite 100  
Slayton, MN 56172

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

#### **Your LMC Resource**

##### **Contact Laura Ziegler**

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<sup>(Link to #)</sup>  
**Take LMC 2014 Fiscal  
Conditions Survey by Jan. 10**

The League recently sent the 2014 Fiscal Conditions Survey to the chief administrative officer of each of its 832 member cities. The deadline to return your completed survey has been extended to **Jan. 10**.

This is the 11th consecutive year that the League is contacting its members to learn about the kinds of fiscal challenges facing cities and the types of strategies being employed to address those challenges.

The 2014 survey also includes questions that will help the League learn more about city issues that are of a concern to members. Topics this year include public notice publication costs and delayed road projects.

Survey findings are a central part of the League's annual State of the Cities Report and have helped educate legislators, the media, and other officials.

- **Access reports from past years** *(Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/State-of-the-Cities-Reports.jsp>)*

If you received a survey, please complete it by Jan. 10. Save time and postage by completing the survey online!

<http://lmc.org/page/1/fiscalsurvey14.jsp>

1/6/2014



For those who choose to complete the survey online, detailed instructions and a user ID are given in the cover letter accompanying the survey. Completed surveys can also be submitted by mail or fax.

Thank you for once again taking the time to help us gain a better understanding of cities' fiscal challenges!

If you have questions about the survey or if you have misplaced your user ID or paper survey, please contact Lena Gould (see info at right).

### **Your LMC Resource**

If you have questions about the 2014 Fiscal Conditions Survey or misplaced your user ID or paper survey:

#### **Contact Lena Gould**

Policy Analyst

(651) 281-1245 or (800) 925-1122

**lgould@lmc.org** *(Link to: <mailto:lgould@lmc.org>)*

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<sup>(Link to #)</sup>  
**City of Madelia Honored with  
Local Government Innovation  
Award**

A project designed to transform wastewater treatment ponds into natural habitats for pheasants, water fowl, and deer has earned the City of Madelia highest honors in the 2013 Local Government Innovation Awards.

The awards—sponsored by the **Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota** (*Link to: <http://www.hhh.umn.edu>*) in partnership with the **Bush Foundation** (*Link to: <http://www.bushfoundation.org>*), the League of Minnesota Cities, the **Association of Minnesota Counties** (*Link to: <http://www.mncounties.org>*), and the **Minnesota School Boards Association** (*Link to: <http://www.mnmsba.org>*)—recognize local governments in Minnesota for innovation and creativity.

Madelia was chosen as top winner in the city category. Top honor in the school category was awarded to Monroe Elementary in Brooklyn Park for its “GEARS Time” project, and Carlton County’s “TXT4Life Suicide Prevention” program received the highest award in the county category. The three top winners will each receive a \$10,000 grant from the Bush Foundation to continue their work, and a professionally produced video to use in sharing the stories of their work with other local governments.

A total of 94 cities, counties, and school boards submitted nominations for consideration in this year's competition. Other city category winners for 2013 include the cities of Crookston, Coon Rapids, and Brooklyn Park (joint nomination), Albert Lea, Minneapolis, and Morris. All awards were presented at a ceremony and reception held at the Humphrey School in December.

**Learn more about the Local Government Innovation Awards and the winners** *(Link to: <http://www.lgia.umn.edu>)*

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** *(Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>)*

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## <sup>(Link to: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>)</sup> **Sign Up to Receive Notifications of MPCA Rulemaking**

The **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency** <sup>(Link to: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>)</sup> (MPCA) makes a number of rules every year that could affect city or local governments or be of interest to their constituencies. The MPCA's rulemaking activities may address solid and hazardous waste management, air and water quality, grant programs, feedlots, and a number of other areas.

- **Access the rulemaking docket for an up-to-date list of all current MPCA rulemaking activities (pdf)** <sup>(Link to: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=16321>)</sup>

For each new rule, the MPCA seeks public comments and provides notice through an email notification system. You can sign up through the MPCA's Govdelivery system to receive notice of the rules that may affect your city.

- **Sign up to receive email alerts for public and rule notices** <sup>(Link to: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/public-notices/list.html>)</sup>

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** <sup>(Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>)</sup>

<sup>(Link to #)</sup>  
**Blandin Foundation to Host  
Broadband Conference**

The time is ripe for Minnesota legislators and residents to have a conversation about our shared aspirations for broadband access across the state. The Blandin Foundation will host this conversation at its conference, “Border to Border Broadband: A Call to Action,” slated to take place at the RiverCentre in St. Paul on Feb. 4 and 5. The League of Minnesota Cities is a co-sponsor of the event.

Recent broadband activities that will be discussed include:

- The Governor’s Broadband Task Force is issuing its 2013 report and recommendations.
- Connect Minnesota hosted a Broadband Summit in December to hear from experts about where we’re at and what’s working.
- Minnesota state legislators conducted a “listening tour” to hear directly from Minnesotans about their technology needs and dreams.

Join the Blandin Foundation to co-create a call to action to harness the promise of the Internet to ensure a vibrant and prosperous future for all Minnesotans.

**Learn more and register for the conference** *(Link to: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1360663>)*

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** *(Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>)*

## **Your LMC Resource**

### **Contact Laura Ziegler**

IGR Liaison

(651) 281-1267 or (800) 925-1122

**[lziegler@lmc.org](mailto:lziegler@lmc.org)** *(Link to: <mailto:lziegler@lmc.org>)*

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<sup>(Link to: [http://www.mndot.gov/saferoutes/](#))</sup>  
**Current Grant Opportunities**

**Safe Routes to School Grants**

Minnesota schools and their partners are invited to apply for Safe Routes to School grant funds for projects that will help more children safely walk and bicycle to school. Applications are due by **Jan. 31**. The Minnesota Department of Transportation will offer a webinar Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. to help schools and their partners complete grant applications.

**Learn more and access the application** *(Link to: <http://www.mndot.gov/saferoutes/>)*

**Funding from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has issued its 2015 request for proposal (RFP) for funding from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund beginning July 1, 2015. The Trust Fund represents the money that, since its inception in 1991, has been generated by the Minnesota State Lottery to provide a constitutionally dedicated funding source for protection of the state's unique natural resources. Approximately \$44 million is expected to be available for projects being sought in environment and natural resource areas that will provide multiple ecological and other public benefits. Proposals are due by **March 28**.

**Learn more and access the 2015 RFP** *(Link to: <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>)*



## SPOTLIGHT

January | February 2014



## From the desk of the Executive Director

### AT-LARGE POSITION AVAILABLE ON BOARD

I am happy to report that at their November 21 meeting the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission approved a process to give our volunteer members an opportunity to obtain an open at-large position on the Northwest Community Television Board of Directors by way of an appointment.

As you may be aware, we have two elected representatives of community producers/volunteers who serve on the NWCT Board. Those elected producer/volunteers are **Jesse Stinski**, currently in the middle of a two-year term, and **Donald Jackson** who recently won the NWCT election and begins serving his two-year term in 2014. The election process will always remain in place.

The appointment process is in addition and different from the election process. The Cable Commission will officially make the appointment of a community producer/volunteer if members of the Cable Commission are not interested in serving on the NWCT Board. An application needs to be filled out and submitted no later than Friday, January 17, 2014. **The application is available on the NWCT web site and at the studio.** Applicants will then interview with either the chairperson or vice chairperson of the Cable Commission. The Executive Director takes part in the interviews but it is up to the Cable Commission Chair or Vice Chair to make a final recommendation to the full Cable Commission. The appointed position is for a two-year term to serve in 2014 and 2015 and will be voted on at the February 20 meeting.

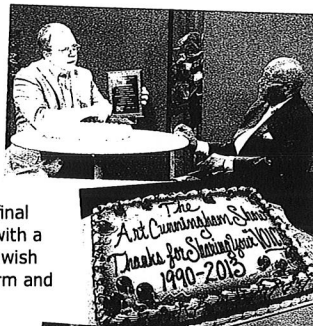
### VOLUNTEER GALA

The annual Volunteer Gala was a huge success and I was honored to participate. I want to thank all of you once again for all you

have accomplished over the past year—I also want to say a big THANK YOU to staff for all the planning and work that went into this event.

### ART CUNNINGHAM

I want to thank volunteer host **Art Cunningham** for his 23 years of productions in our studio. Art started out in 1990 and hosted his last program on December 11, 2013. I had the opportunity to talk with Art on his final program and presented him with a plaque and cake. We want to wish Art a happy retirement in warm and sunny Florida.



### FRANCHISE RENEWAL UPDATE

We are planning on getting together with Comcast representatives in January to continue our negotiation process.

We want to wish all of you a safe and happy new year!  
**MIKE JOHNSON**



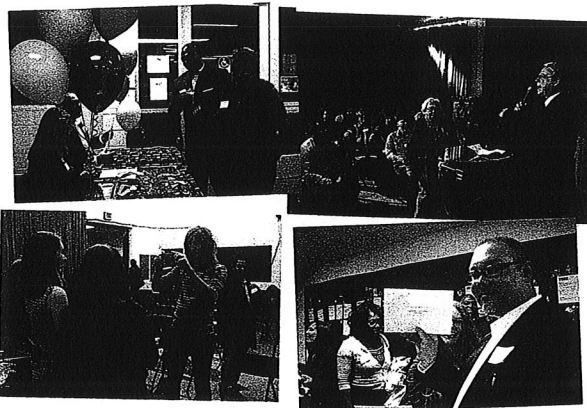
Art's final crew, left to right: Mark Patten, Jesse Stinski, Kayla Fuller, Art Cunningham, Michael Thompson-Quartey and Darren Homme.

## Access to the Future celebrates 30 years of community programming

Volunteers had a chance to do a little time traveling at the 2013 Volunteer Gala. This year's celebration gave members the chance to take a look back at NWCT's 30-year programming history and also get a glimpse at our possible future with the screening of the staff/volunteer created movie, "Access to the Future." We packed the house for the Gala—it was great to see so many of you in 1983 wear!

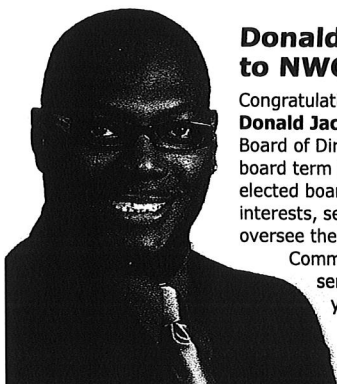
The night's festivities included a gourmet soup, salad and sandwich buffet, a program filled with historic facts, awards and year-end kudos, a timeline outlining NWCT's history and the debut of the NWCT-produced short film, "Access to the Future." The celebration ended with the annual prize drawing—volunteer **JCP** (Lois Sudue) was the grand prize winner of a \$200 Target gift card.

Haven't seen "Access to the Future?" Find it on our facebook and YouTube pages. **BNC**



Top left: Donald Jackson ("Poor No More") and Arminta Wilson ("Karaoke Show") check in. Top right: During the program, Executive Director Mike Johnson recognizes Eleanor Jesse as the Longest Serving Volunteer (1982-2013)—she's been here since the beginning! Bottom left: Trevor Scholl takes a picture of Ashlee and Sharon Kephart (2013 Outstanding Crew Member) as Serge Diokpo ("Africa Rendezvous") looks on. Bottom right: Current Board member Jesse Stinski.

Bottom, left to right: Sue Ellen Zagrabelny ("Book Beat"); Kay Newberg and Gerry Bredenberg (Longest Running Volunteer Program, "In Our Town," 1985-2013) with studio manager Barb Nolan Clark; Darren Homme (Is that Marty McFly from the movie "Back to the Future?"); Sharon Parker and Darcy Wills ("Light on the Gospel").



### Donald Jackson elected to NWCT Board seat

Congratulations to NWCT volunteer, **Donald Jackson**, for being elected to the Board of Directors. He will begin his first board term February 20, 2014. Member-elected board members represent volunteer interests, set policies, adopt budgets and oversee the overall operation of Northwest Community Television. Donald will serve as a board member for two years. **BNC**



## Studio notes

### USE OF SDHC CARDS OVER 32GB IN PORTABLE CAMERAS

Thanks to **Christian Vincent** ("Gospel Safari"), a discovery was made about recording on SDHC cards over 32Gb in the HMC150 portable cameras—you can't! The Panasonic HMC150's will only record on SDHC cards 32Gb or smaller. Who knew?

### STUDIO HOLIDAY HOURS

The studio will be closed Wednesday, January 1, Monday, January 20 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day), and Monday, February 17 (President's Day).

### END OF YEAR NEW MEMBERS

2013 has drawn to a close and we have some new Northwest Community Television members: **Barbara Cameron, Cyd Haynes, Daniel Holm, Dan Severson, Sarah Taylor, Tony Taylor** and **Bryan Wernimont**. Welcome!



#### PHOTO OP

On Tuesday, November 19, "Book Beat" was the first show to record with the new 16:9 Grass Valley studio cameras. We all agree the cameras offer superb recording quality!



## Movie night recap

Thank you to those who braved the cold to catch a second screening of NWCT's short film, "Access to the Future," starring studio manager Roger Larson, **Richard Klatte**, **Jesse Stinski** and other volunteers. In the film, Richard and Roger must travel to the future to stop a media executive, played by Jesse, from supporting legislation that forces public access centers to close down, resulting in no outlet to express ideas and opinions. If you still haven't seen it, check out our facebook and YouTube pages.

The night was filled with popcorn, hot chocolate, laughs and questions about how the film was made. There is a lot that goes into making a film and you've shown a lot of interest in having us put together another film so that you can learn more. Keep your eyes open for next year, the next movie could be starring you! **NJ**



Some of the movie's players: **Richard Klatte** as himself, **Ron Olson** as studio security, and **Ron Stoffel** as the father of public access, **George Stoney**.

## Studio production calendar

<b>1</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>15</b>	6:30pm	Kids for a Better World	
<b>2</b>	8:30am		8:00pm	Oromo TV	
	9:30am				
	12:30pm		<b>16</b>	8:30am	
	3:30pm			Celebrate Life Int'l	
	6:30pm			9:30am	
				Healing Center Int'l	
				12:30pm	
				Ruth Miller Ministries	
				3:30pm	
				New Liberian	
<b>3</b>	9:30am			5:00pm	
	12:30pm			Light on the Gospel	
				6:30pm	
				Jesus Is Lord	
<b>4</b>	9:30am			9:30am	
	11:00am			Twin Cities Testify	
				17	9:30am
				Star Nation TV	
<b>5</b>	12:30pm			11:00am	
	2:00pm			Baby Blue Arts Presents	
	3:30pm			19	3:30pm
				Africa Rendezvous	
				<b>20</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>6</b>	11:00am		<b>21</b>	12:30pm	
	6:30pm			Shekannah Glory	
				2:00pm	
				Daughters of Zion	
<b>7</b>	12:30pm			3:30pm	
	2:00pm			Repentance and Love	
	3:30pm			6:30pm	
				NW City Politics	
				8:00pm	
				Minnesingers	
				22	8:00pm
				Oromo TV	
				<b>23</b>	8:30am
				Celebrate Life Int'l	
				9:30am	
				Healing Center Int'l	
				12:30pm	
				Ruth Miller Ministries	
				3:30pm	
				New Liberian	
<b>9</b>	8:30am			5:00pm	
	9:30am			In Our Town	
	12:30pm			6:30pm	
	3:30pm			Community Empower	
	5:00pm			24	9:30am
	6:30pm			Twin Cities Testify	
				Celebrate Life Int'l	
				25	11:00am
				Country Music Jubilee	
				<b>26</b>	2:00pm
				Andrew Richter Show	
<b>10</b>	9:30am			3:30pm	
	12:30pm			The Numbers Guy	
	2:00pm			27	11:00am
	3:30pm			Signs and Wonders	
	5:00pm			12:30pm	
	6:30pm			Freethinking Forum	
				<b>28</b>	12:30pm
				Shekannah Glory	
<b>11</b>	8:30am			2:00pm	
	9:30am			Daughters of Zion	
	11:00am			3:30pm	
				Repentance and Love	
<b>12</b>	1:00pm			29	8:00pm
				Oromo TV	
<b>13</b>	11:00am			<b>30</b>	8:30am
	2:00pm			Celebrate Life Int'l	
				9:30am	
				Healing Center Int'l	
<b>14</b>	12:30pm			12:30pm	
	2:00pm			Ruth Miller Ministries	
	3:30pm			3:30pm	
	6:30pm			New Liberian	
				5:00pm	
				Cub Scout Tours	
				<b>31</b>	9:30am
				Twin Cities Testify	

#### PHOTO OP

"Access to the Future" movie producer and studio manager, **Nikki Jackett**, strong-armed volunteer producer, **Alonzo Robinson** ("Kung Fu 4 the Streets"), into playing an NWCT studio manager. She didn't have to twist his arm too hard!

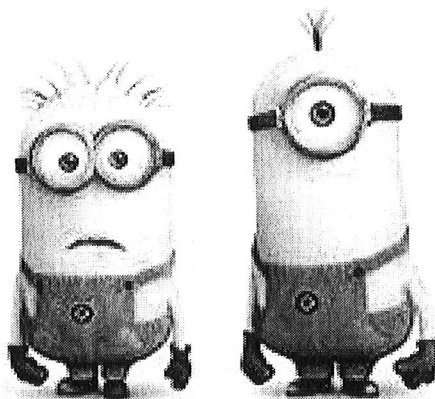


# Recreation Department Update

## 1-10-14

The **Warming House Season** began on December 21 at Lions Valley Place, Welcome and Broadway parks. Attendance has been steady at all locations, regardless of the January deep freeze.

On Friday, January 3 the cities of Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale offered a free **Movie in the Gym** at the Crystal Community Center. 106 people enjoyed the movie "**Despicable Me 2**"; there was lots of positive feedback on this event. Concession were for sale during this event, with popcorn being our biggest seller.



# StarTribune

## Cities at odds with Minnesota's gun law

Article by: Pam Louwagie  
Star Tribune  
January 5, 2014 - 11:45 PM

Leslie LeCuyer knew the City Council meeting in Foley would be contentious, with townspeople in the central Minnesota community arguing over a city worker's employment status.

LeCuyer, a council member, didn't know until after the fall meeting, however, that someone may have quietly brought in a loaded handgun.

Even though she's a self-described gun enthusiast, LeCuyer later suggested the city put up a sign forbidding guns from the premises like those found near the doors of so many businesses around the state. She was shocked to learn that, legally, the city couldn't.

People sometimes come to City Hall angry, she pointed out.

"Our decisions can impact people: Whether or not they can build onto their home, whether they can put up a building on their property," she said. "That's what we put our name on the line to do. But we don't put our name on the line to be killed ... People have to do these jobs. We don't want it to be so unsafe that no one will do it anymore."

State law has quietly prevented most cities from banning legal guns from many public buildings since the Legislature changed handgun laws in 2003. Guns can be banned in private businesses and other public buildings including schools, psychiatric hospitals and courthouses.

Some cities passed their own rules anyway. Crystal, for instance, has an ordinance prohibiting dangerous weapons in city buildings and on city property.

City Manager Anne Norris said the law hasn't presented a problem there. That might be because Crystal is a "charter city" which League of Minnesota Cities lobbyist Anne Finn said gives it more flexibility under state law to establish more of its own regulations.

"To date we haven't had any issues with it," Norris said.

Virginia also prohibits people from possessing or controlling a pistol on city property.

The League of Minnesota Cities has taken a stream of calls over the years from city governments trying to find ways to discourage people from bringing guns to city buildings, Finn said. Their advice in a blog post includes pointing out that cities may regulate the discharge of firearms and that guns can be banned in city halls attached to or part of a courthouse.

At the State Capitol, permit holders who provide advance notice to the commissioner of Public Safety are allowed to carry firearms, though some lawmakers are pushing to change that.

While the League of Cities hasn't taken a position on permit-to-carry laws, it did argue that cities should have the option to ban guns from city buildings, noting that most city leaders agree on keeping local control over such questions, Finn said.

The league would be ready to lobby on that point if gun legislation comes up in the Legislature again, she added, but they are not anticipating bringing it up this session.

"I think most cities have sort of resigned themselves to accepting that they don't have the authority [to ban guns], but they would like to have it," Finn said.

Rep. Tony Cornish, R-Vernon Center, said it's important to keep laws consistent across the state so permit-holders know what to expect.

"If we turn it over to cities and counties to make up their own minds, nobody is going to know what the situation is," he said. Changing the laws for cities isn't necessary, he said, because allowing guns on city property hasn't presented a problem.

"Why would we want to address something that isn't a problem?" he said. "We're a gun and a hunting state ... we really support the right to keep and bear arms."

Like many cities, Foley has a police officer in the council chambers, especially when a contentious subject is on a meeting agenda.

LeCuyer said she wasn't fearful during the last contentious meeting, but it made her think. An avid hunter, she said she feels safe around guns and acquiring a permit to carry a weapon is on her bucket list. It simply hadn't been a priority.

"It got higher now, though, because frankly all of us on the City Council also could carry and have them openly displayed at the council," she said.

Pam Louwagie • 612-673-7102

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# Becker Park recreation building vandalized Dec. 24

SUN Post 1-9-14

Police offering \$500 reward for information leading to arrest or prosecution of vandals

BY JOE BOWEN

SUN POST NEWSPAPERS

Crystal Police are offering a \$500 reward for any information leading to the arrest or prosecution of the parties responsible for the Dec. 24 vandalism of a city park building.

Sometime between the hours of midnight and 8:40 a.m. a person or persons broke into and vandalized the Becker Park recreation building, located at 6225 56th Avenue North, Crystal.

Once inside, the vandals broke windows and mirrors, sprayed fire extinguishers across walls

and floors and broke into the building's kitchen area where they caused further damage.

The vandals "wrecked just about everything they could wreck," Crystal Police Deputy Chief Mike Meehan said, adding that, based on some of the recovered evidence, police believe the vandalism was conducted by more than one person.

A city Parks and Recreation worker discovered the damage during a routine maintenance check and reported it to police.

The building is gener-

ally closed during winter, opening only occasionally for events.

An estimate on the total cost to repair the damages is forthcoming, Meehan said.

Offering a reward is "not rare" in similar situations with few leads, Meehan wrote in an email.

Those wishing to contact the police with information regarding the vandalism are encouraged to call the Crystal Police tip line: 763-531-1020.

Contact Joe Bowen at joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com



A wall-length mirror was destroyed by a vandal or vandals at the Becker Park recreation building in the early morning hours of Dec. 24. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

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# 'Crystal Sparkles' recognizes two outstanding holiday displays

BY JOE BOWEN  
SUN POST NEWSPAPERS

several videos of their handiwork posted on YouTube.

The Weiman family display is less technologically advanced, but features more lights and decidedly more light-up figurines than the McClaines.

"When we bought our house 15 years ago, we just had a couple of things," Keith said of the growing group of Santas, reindeer and assorted biblical figures arranged across his front yard at 5627 Regent Avenue North.

Groups of tourists and hospice patients often visit their home to view the display, and the Star Tribune has listed the location on its annual Holiday Lights Map for the past several years running, Keith added.

The Weimans buy a handful of new decorations each year and bought the majority of their collection over the past 10 years. They produce a similarly large display for Halloween but only have it arranged for one day.

They've already taken advantage of the large discounts on decorations that come with the end of the Christmas retail season, having purchased a new Mrs. Claus statue, new ornaments for their tree and icicle lights.

Crystal awarded top honors in its annual Crystal Sparkles Christmas lights competition to Michael and Joanne McClaine and second to Keith and Sue Weiman. Both families were formally recognized by the Crystal City Council at its meeting Jan. 7.

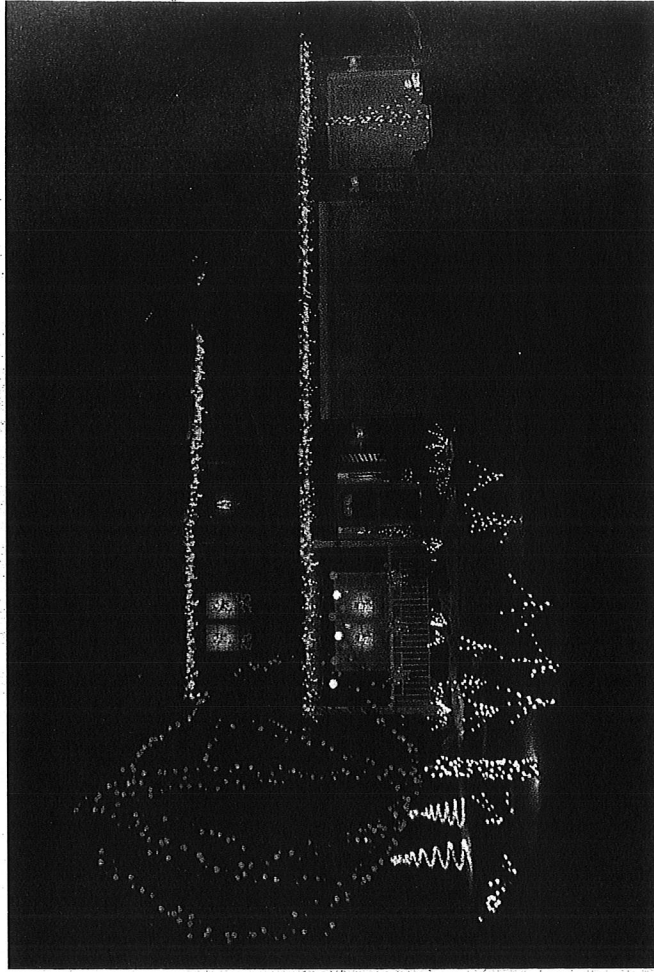
Different portions of the McClaine's light display, located at 5709 Oregon Court North, strategically flash on and off in time to music broadcast on 106.9 FM, a radio station which Michael set up for the occasion. Sixteen different sets of lights in the family's front yard are connected to a computer that controls each set individually and synchronizes the entire display to eight different Christmas songs, which play on a loop.

More complicated displays, Michael said, can control 132 or 156 sets of lights across multiple computers.

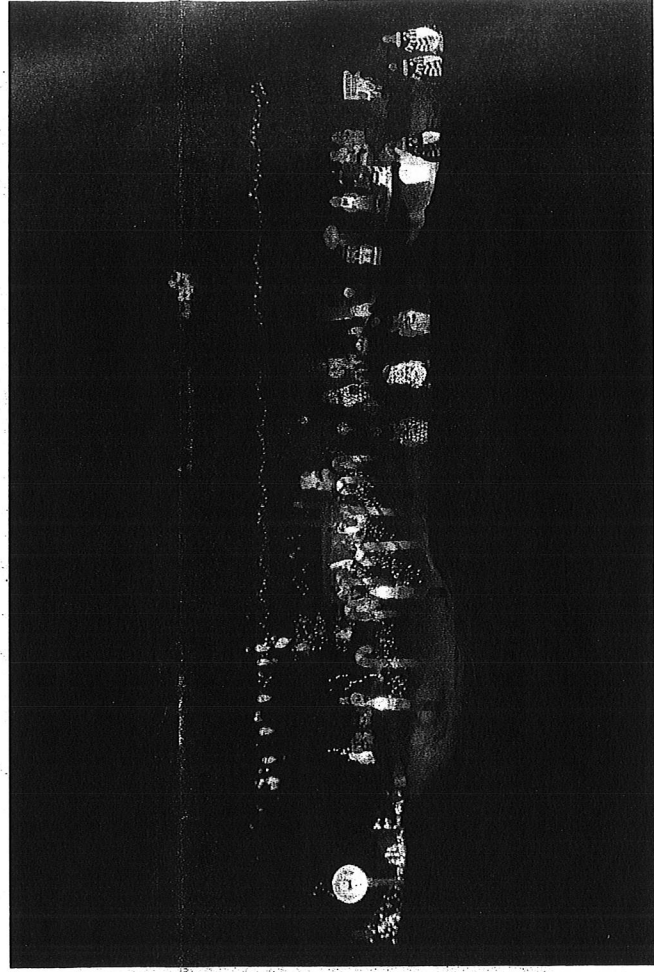
"I just like the technology. And outdoing the neighbors," he joked, noting that some nearby homes have begun adding more decorations each year since he moved into the neighborhood four years ago. Before moving to Crystal, the McClaines lived in Arkansas where they created similar displays of Christmas lights and, Michael said, had

Contact Joe Bowen at  
joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com

FOR MORE CRYSTAL SPARKLES PHOTOS GO TO PAGE 7



The home of Michael and Joanne McClaine at 5709 Oregon Court North, which recently won first place in the City of Crystal's "Crystal Sparkles" Christmas lighting competition. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



The home of Keith and Sue Weiman at 5627 Regent Ave. N, which recently won second place in "Crystal Sparkles," a Christmas decorating contest organized by the City of Crystal. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

1-9-14  
Sun Post



# Crystal Sparkles

FROM PAGE 1



ABOVE: The McClaine's decorations are timed to music they broadcast on 106.9 FM. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

ABOVE RIGHT: The Weimans have been collecting Christmas decorations for 15 years, including a nativity scene and several varieties of reindeer. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

RIGHT: The Weiman family's front walk is flanked by light-up candy canes. A miniaturized Santa Claus is arranged near the front door. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

